

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 09130 251727Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4041

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW BY POUCH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, ETRN, WB, GE, TU, NL, DA, AU

US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS AND U.S. REQUEST

FOR PAN AM BERLIN-VIENNA SERVICE

REF: BONN 16418

1. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED WITHDRAWING OF OFFER OF
WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS TO AUSTRIANS, WE ARE
INCLINED TO AGREE WITH JUDGMENT CONTAINED PARA 5 REFTL
THAT GDR IS BASICALLY UNWILLING TO GRANT OVERFLIGHT
RIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN TO ANY WESTERN CARRIER. IF
GDR NOT PREPARED TO GRANT RIGHTS TO NEUTRAL STATE LIKE
AUSTRIA, IT WOULD SEEM EVEN LESS LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD
BE PREPARED TO GRANT RIGHTS TO NATO COUNTRIES SUCH AS
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 09130 251727Z

TURKEY OR THE NETHERLANDS.

2. IN 1972 (VIENNA'S 5832 OF AUGUST 22, 1972) AUA OFFICIAL BAMMER TOLD US EAST GERMANS HAD PROVIDED ASSURANCES TO AUA THAT AUSTRIA WOULD BE FIRST COUNTRY TO BE GRANTED OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN IF AN WHEN GDR GRANTS THEM AT ALL. THIS ASSURANCE, IF IT WAS EVER GIVEN, MAY NOT MEAN MUCH. HOWEVER BAMMER APPARENTLY TOOK IT SERIOUSLY AT THE TIME AND AUSTRIANS MAY THEREFORE FIND RATIONALE FOR WITHDRAWING RIGHTS FROM AUA AND GRANTING THEM TO OTHER WESTERN CARRIERS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. THEY WOULD PROBABLY FIND WITHDRAWAL OF RIGHTS MORE PALATABLE IF RIGHTS WERE BEING GRANTED TO ANOTHER CARRIER WHICH HAD ACTUALLY OBTAINED OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS AND COULD THUS IN FACT EXERCISE LANDING RIGHTS IN WEST BERLIN.

3. AN ALTERNATIVE WHICH MIGHT BE WORTH CONSIDERING WOULD BE TO OFFER LANDING RIGHTS TO THE DUTCH AND TURKS WHILE NOT WITHDRAWING THEM FROM AUSTRIANS AND SAS, ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT IF ANY ONE OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES OBTAINS OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS AND ACTUALLY INAUGURATES SERVICE TO WEST BERLIN, THE GRANT OF RIGHTS TO THE OTHER THREE PARTIES WOULD AUTOMATICALLY LAPSE. THIS WOULD IN EFFECT THROW THE BURDEN ON ALL FOUR COUNTRIES, AND WHICHEVER SUCCEEDED FIRST WOULD BE THE WINNER. THIS FORMULATION WOULD ALSO MAKE IT UNNECESSARY TO FORMALLY WITHDRAW RIGHTS FROM SAS AND AUSTRIANS.

4. QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHAT EFFECT PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS FROM AUSTRIA MIGHT HAVE ON PENDING U.S. REQUEST TO GOA FOR DIRECT PAN AMERICAN FLIGHTS BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND VIENNA VIA CORRIDORS. IF AUSTRIANS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT THUS FAR TO ACCEDE TO OUR REQUEST (BECAUSE OF INTERVENTION OF SOVIETS AND GDR OR FOR OTHER REASONS), THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY BE EVEN LESS LIKELY TO RESPOND FAVORABLY IF WE WITHDRAW LANDING RIGHTS OFFER IN WHICH THEY HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD US THEY ARE INTERESTED.

5. IF DEPARTMENT REMAINS INTERESTED IN PRESSING FOR
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PAGE 03 VIENNA 09130 251727Z

DIRECT PAN AMERICAN SERVICE BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND VIENNA, IT SEEMS TO US THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 12 OFFERS AN IDEAL OCCASION FOR REITERATING AND JUSTIFYING OUR REQUEST DIRECTLY TO CHANCELLOR OR TO SENIOR OFFICIALS IN HIS ENTOURAGE. INDEED, FAILURE TO RAISE OUR REQUEST FOR VIENNA-WEST BERLIN SERVICE WITH CHANCELLOR'S PARTY WILL INEVITABLY LEAVE AUSTRIANS WITH IMPRESSION THAT

WE ARE NO LONGER SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THIS REQUEST.
SUGGEST DEPARTMENT DEFER ANY PENDING DECISIONS ON
LANDING RIGHTS IN WEST BERLIN UNTIL AFTER CHANCELLOR'S
VISIT AND FALLOUT THEREFROM.HUMES

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